

When we are talking about Down syndrome and awareness of that, you know, it is a sad fact that we have got to address this issue. We have got to address that extreme discrimination that some individuals that want to impress upon those people who may have Down syndrome even before they have a chance to live a life.

In the United States, two-thirds—67 percent—of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome while in the womb are aborted.

In Europe, it is even worse. In France, the rate is 77 percent. In Denmark, it is 98 percent. And in Iceland, it is nearly 100 percent, where late-term abortions are allowed if the baby has a deformity, which includes Down syndrome, to quote a CBS News article.

In a society where Down syndrome individuals can have a wonderful quality of life and pursue their dreams, this discrimination needs to be brought to light.

We live during a time when there is so much medical innovation, so many opportunities, so many brilliant things that our doctors are developing, we need to make sure that we capitalize on that innovation, make sure that we allow people the opportunity to live a full life and live the opportunities that they enjoy.

This innovation, unfortunately, has been used by individuals to determine the sex, determine if the child is healthy, determine if the child has certain traits; and in some cases, for positive reasons, to determine whether there is some medical necessity to operate while in the womb to make sure that that individual—that child—enjoys quality of life.

However, we need to make sure that that testing process never gets corrupted, never gets used in a discriminatory way, and it is never used to justify abortion.

It is a sad fact that we are seeing so many things being talked about in the abortion arena nowadays, and so many people beating that drum.

We have got to stand up, you know, in our country. We want to be able to stand up for people's rights and we want to be able to stand up for the opportunities for babies to live and have the opportunity to live a life that we all will enjoy as well.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my fellow colleague, the opportunity to speak and talk about this very important issue.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great colleague from the State of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, on March 21, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. What an appropriate thing to celebrate as folks with Down syndrome make incredible contributions to society every single day that should be acknowledged and appreciated.

I, for one, am thankful for all of those with Down syndrome that I have had the great pleasure and honor of knowing and learning from.

With the rise of prenatal screening tests across the United States, the number of babies born with Down syndrome every year has significantly decreased. And while we do not know the exact number of Down syndrome children who are aborted each year, it is estimated that approximately two-thirds of children diagnosed in the womb are aborted.

Two-thirds of children who would go on to make a significant impact in this world are murdered before they are given a chance to even be able to have that opportunity.

Iceland, in particular, has almost completely eradicated Down syndrome births.

Statistics show that they have an almost 100 percent termination rate of Down syndrome children.

France has a 77 percent termination rate; while Denmark is at 98 percent.

I pray that the United States will reject the idea that Down syndrome children somehow are less than other children. As a society, we should move away from any idea that advocates killing any child in its mother's womb. And as a pro-life Congressman, I believe that all life is valuable, especially the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Aborted Down syndrome children are just that, they are children who have their own hopes and dreams for a future and to live a long, healthy life. To take away their right to life is inconceivable to me and abhorrent.

I will continue to fight for legislation that protects every single unborn child, regardless of whether or not they have an extra chromosome.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BABIN, and I appreciate those words.

Mr. Speaker, we, as fellow colleagues, have such an important role trying to work on how we bring forth those American principles and opportunities for everybody.

In recent months, we have seen politicians from States around the country embrace late-term abortions and openly discuss infanticide. Individuals with Down syndrome would be among the most severely impacted by these tragic policies.

To help respond to that, my colleagues and I have repeatedly called to bring forward the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to the floor for a vote.

This straightforward bill would require healthcare practitioners to give the same care to a child who has survived a botched abortion just as they would any other newborn child.

Apparently, the bill has 182 cosponsors.

Unfortunately, a vote on the bill has been blocked 21 times now by the majority.

However, as we rise to commemorate World Down Syndrome Day, I call on my colleagues to consider this bill and any other one that would protect life and support those with Down syndrome.

There are 250,000 people in America with Down syndrome. They live healthy, productive, happy lives, just like you and I do, and want to have the same hopes and dreams and goals.

We need more awareness of what a diagnosis of Down syndrome really means. It means that a child simply has an extra chromosome and that nothing else about their life is different from you or me.

They have so much to contribute to this world, and they deserve that chance.

Last year, I had the chance to meet David Egan. David is a fellow working for the National Down Syndrome Society, and previously worked for the House Ways and Means Committee.

When I met him, he told me how much he wanted to help others with Down syndrome accomplish anything they wanted to do, just as he has done in his own life and career.

I am inspired by people like David, and I want to thank my colleagues who join me today for this Special Order recognizing World Down Syndrome Day.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with Congress to support those with Down syndrome, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 863. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

464. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2020, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901a(9); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 251A (as added Public Law 112-25, Sec. 302(a)); (125 Stat. 256); to the Committee on Appropriations.

465. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2020, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(c); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 254 (as amended by Public Law 112-25,